he would submit in due course a memorandum on the various methods of improving the forest revenue of the State.

Reply.—The matter is engaging the attention of Government and the memorandum promised by the member will also be considered when received.

112. Present decrease in forest revenue owing to the negligence of the controlling officers of the department.

Mr. Padmanabhan Parameswaran (*Pathanapuram*) remarked that the wealth of Travancore lay chiefly in its forests, but it was painful to note that the revenue derived from them was considerably less than from those of Cochin or Mysore. The budget allotment for the Forest department was out of all proportion to the revenue realized therefrom. Much valuable timber was smuggled away and tracts unfit for the purpose were included among reserves and a large establishment kept up in charge of them. Many false cases were concocted against poor people by forest officers and this resulted in great hardship. He suggested that all lands on the sides of water-courses within forests might be registered in the names of private individuals and such other measures devised by Government as would tend to secure the realisation of a larger revenue from the Forest department to the State than it had been possible hitherto.

Mr. Narayanan Velayudhan (*Pathanapuram*) also spoke on the subject.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai (*Chengannur*) pointed out that it was necessary to settle first of all what lands should be treated as reserves. It was doubtful whether the present area of reserves should be maintained intact. It should also be settled on what plan and principle reserves should be formed in future. Free permission should be given to private persons to cultivate teak and other valuable trees for Government. Lands within reserves should not be registered permanently in the name of any one, but might be leased out for priodical cultivation.

Mr. K. Kochu Thomman (*Chengannur*) suggested that the sides of the Ranni and Konni rivers might be registered in the names of private individuals for 3 years after which they would become fit for the cultivation of teak trees.

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Reply.—The suggestions of the speakers will be borne in mind. In regard to the fall in forest revenue, it has to be said that the gross revenue of the Forest department has not decreased. It has remained at the same figure for several years and is now more than what it was ten or twelve years ago. A valuation survey has been started and it is almost finished in one tract. The general improvement of the forests under this system of working is steadily kept in view. It is hoped that the income will gradually increase.

113. Permission to cultivate paddy within reserved forests.

Mr. Dominic Thomman (*Agricultural Association, Changanachery*) observed that about 2,400 square miles or more than one-third of the entire area of the State had been already declared as reserved forest. Until recently, periodical paddy cultivation was permitted within these reserves and for generations thousands of people had been accustomed to look upon this as their sole source of livelihood. The all-too-sudden closing of this channel of subsistence was a source of unmitigated hardship to the people, and when the matter was recently explained to Government they promised to relax the stringency of the prohibition in some of the reserved forests and said that the matter was receiving their careful attention. The member earnestly requested that a definite scheme might be soon formulated for the grant of this prayer.

Reply.—As a general rule paddy cultivation cannot be allowed within reserved forests except on a small scale where it is intended to plant up the land with trees afterwards. The cultivation of paddy on hill-slopes and the growing of trees for timber on them are incompatible with each other. What is possible will nevertheless be done.

114. Exclusion from reserves of tracts not indispensable for forest conservation and only fit for agricultural purposes.

Mr. Kanakku Mathevan Mathevan (*Nedumangad*) said that at present there were many tracts within reserved forests in which valuable timber trees would not grow, but which would be fit for the cultivation of cereals. Such tracts, he submitted, might be excluded from reserves with a view to promote the interests of agriculture.

Reply.—Government have recently given their particular attention to this subject and have invited the opinions of responsible officers.

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